

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of new claims 13 to 16, claims 7 to 16 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Rejection of Claims 7 to 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7 to 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Japanese Patent No. 2002-280237 (“Masahiro”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,703,462 (“Woody”). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Masahiro and Woody does not render unpatentable the present claims.

Claim 7, as presented, relates to an ignition coil of an ignition system in an internal combustion engine, including, in relevant part, at least one electrically conductive component having, at least in some areas, an arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its surface, the arrangement having at least one straight side. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 14 to 17 of the specification, as well as Figure 3. The Office Action refers to Masahiro as disclosing all of the elements of claim 7. Specifically, the Office Action refers to the center core 110 and the wrap tube 111 as disclosing the electrically conductive component and the arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its surface, respectively.

Center core 110 and wrap tube 111 of Masahiro do not disclose, or even suggest, the electrically conductive component having an arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its surface, the arrangement having at least one straight side. As repeatedly described in Masahiro, for example, at page 2, paragraph 7, and page 3, paragraph 14, center core 110 is formed in the shape of an approximate circle pillar. The wrap tube 111, which is formed around the approximate circle pillar center core 110, is tubular, as indicated in Figures 4 and 5b and throughout the specification. Wrap tube 111 does not have any flat surface, and therefore has no straight sides. As the geometry of the structure of the present application is a significant factor in the risk of electrical breakdown, as described on

page 2, lines 20 to 28 of the specification, such structure is not obvious over the disclosure of Masahiro. As such, Masahiro does not disclose, or even suggest, the electrically conductive component having an arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its surface, the arrangement having at least one straight side. Woody does not cure the critical deficiencies of Masahiro. Therefore, the combination of Masahiro and Woody does not render unpatentable independent claim 7, as presented, or dependent claims 8 to 11.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claim 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Masahiro, Woody and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0108931 (“Takeyama”). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Masahiro, Woody and Takeyama does not render unpatentable the presently pending claim.

Claim 12 depends from claim 7 and therefore includes all of the features of claim 7. As more fully set forth above with respect to claim 7, the combination of Masahiro and Woody does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 7. Takeyama does not cure the critical deficiencies of the Masahiro and Woody. Therefore, the combination of Masahiro, Woody and Takeyama does not render unpatentable independent claim 7, as presented, or dependent claim 12.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 13 to 16

New claims 13 to 16 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 13 to 16 add no new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 13 to 16 are not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Masahiro, Woody and Takeyama. Specifically, Masahiro describes the wrap tube 111 and the resin layer 154 as tubular, sleeve-like features. In contrast, the plastic coverings of claims 13 to 16 are featured as coatings, which more completely conform to the edges of the underlying inner and outer cores. The coatings of the present invention, then, can provide protection against the same problems as Masahiro, but with smaller space and manufacturing requirements, and greater flexibility for use with

various geometries. Further, the coatings are better suited to prevent electrical breakdown, since the contact between the coatings and the core is more intimate.

Woody and Takeyama do not cure this critical deficiency of Masahiro. Therefore, the combination of Masahiro, Woody and Takeyama does not render unpatentable new claims 13 to 16.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 9, 2008
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